

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

Apparatus and methods are disclosed by which it is determined which ports in a system can be combined together to form a team and/or whether ports that are already operated as part of a team are eligible to continue to be operated in the team. A network controller system comprising a plurality of network ports and a driver system that operates the plurality of network ports. The driver system determines which of the network ports can be combined together to form a team. Each network port in the team is associated with a different network interface card (NIC). The NICs are associated with a common network address to be used by external network logic.